

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-02 AF-04 ARA-06

EA-06 EUR-12 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 SR-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 256003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFIN, AORG, UNRWA

SUBJECT: FUNDING UNRWA FROM REGULAR UN BUDGET

REF: (A) USUN 3770; (B) STATE 222873; (C) BEIRUT 12349

1. AFTER THOROUGH REVIEW, DEPT HAS CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO PROMOTE THE TRANSFER EITHER OF ADMINISTRATIVE OR OPERATIONAL PORTIONS OF UNRWA BUDGET TO REGULAR ASSESSED UN BUDGET. TRANSFER OF "GENERAL ADMINISTRATION" SECTION OF UNRWA BUDGET, COMPRISING BOTH OR EITHER INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL STAFF SALARIES WOULD REQUIRE APPLICATION OF UN GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION FORMULA FOR PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS TO UNRWA. THIS WOULD RESULT OVER TIME IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNRWA FUNDS, MOSTLY CONTRIBUTED BY US, WEO'S, AND JAPAN, BY INCREASING NUMBERS OF UNRWA OFFICIALS FROM EE AND LDC
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COUNTRIES. AS FOR TRANSFER OF OPERATIONAL PART OF UNRWA

BUDGET WE AGREE, FOR REASONS PARA 6 REFTEL A, WITH CONCLUSION OF UNRWA WORKING GROUP (USUN 4240) THAT THIS UNDESIRABLE AND ALMOST CERTAINLY FACES INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES.

2. DEPT DOES NOT RPT NOT WANT USG TO BE SEEN AS LEADING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL, WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL FALL OF ITS OWN WEIGHT. HOWEVER, USUN SHOULD APPROACH RENNIE, SEEK HIS CURRENT VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT,

AND EXPLAIN OUR POSITION AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. UNLESS RENNIE SET ON WORKING FOR TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, USUN MAY ALSO TAKE RESERVED POSITION IF ASKED BY OTHER DELS, NOTING THAT SUCH TRANSFER WOULD DO LITTLE TO ASSIST SERIOUS UNRWA FINANCIAL PROBLEM. INGERSOLL

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